



Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*

March 2004



REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING

March 17, 2004

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Four members attended. As a result of the small turnout, the meeting was conducted informally with no action taken.

A report from the VVA national organization indicates the chapter has 120 regular members and six associate members. Thanks to Roy Godda, Walter Hollmann, Laura Lyman, Joseph Moschetto, Kerry O'Hara, Stuart Selikowitz, Mark Truhan and William Whitney for their recent membership sign-up or renewals. Thanks also to Bub Crosby, who is sponsoring Robert D. Potter of Ferrisburgh as a new member.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported a total of \$11,031.87 in the chapter's three accounts. The total is substantial but new income has been sharply reduced as a result of a decline in rip-off tickets at the Fair Haven bar (Tomas's) that donates the proceeds to VVA. A new American Legion post in Fair Haven competes for the bar business there.

The chapter's next meeting, Wednesday, April 14, at 6 p.m. at our rooms at the VFW, will focus on election of officers for the coming year. There are four officers (president, vice president, treasurer and secretary) and five board positions open. Contact the chapter at the address on this newsletter, contact an officer or show up and express your interest if you'd like to seek an office.

Secretary Jack Crowther said he had contacted CVPS, the power company, to inquire if there were a way of improving nighttime lighting of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial flag in Main Street Park in Rutland. He is hoping to hear back on whether there are options available, such as a longer arm on the nearest street light.

The next State Council meeting will be June 19 at the American Legion in White River Junction at 10 a.m. Elections will be held. Anyone interested in seeing an office should express their intentions to Bob Wheeler. The State Council's address is 4548 Trebo Road, Chester, VT 05143.

Chapter 1 members are invited to attend the May 30 Memorial Day ceremony at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center. Color guard units will start forming at 2:30 p.m. and move out at 3 p.m.

The Northeast U.S.A. Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association invites all Vietnam vets, Vietnam era vets and their families to its 5th Annual Reunion in Freehold, N.Y., July 30 through Aug. 1, featuring a visit by The Moving Wall (a traveling replica of the Wall in Washington, D.C., that memorializes the Vietnam War dead). Freehold is a popular resort area 35 miles south of Albany and has numerous attractions. The association provides free food, entertainment and camping to all attendees. There are no fees and no vendors. Attendance has grown from about 300 people in 2000 to around 1,500 in 2003. Contacts include Terry Smith at 518-634-2499 (jarhead@francomm.com), John Kellegher at 518-634-2897 and Jim Sill at 518-966-5295 and the Web site <http://home.twcny.rr.com/nevietvets/>.

In a letter to the chapter, Congressman Bernard Sanders notes his support for funding in the amount of \$1.3 billion above the level requested by President Bush for VA health benefits. He also notes his support for a measure permitting VA to conduct outreach to veterans (a reversal of former VA policy). Rep. Sanders offers the assistance of his office "in any way we can" to veterans. The toll-free number is 1-800-339-9834.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, April 14, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS IS SCHEDULED!

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

VVA Chapter 1
PO Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702-6301

Address Correction Requested



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

April 2004



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

April 14, 2004

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Six members attended.

Secretary Jack Crowther moved to accept the report of the March meeting. Second Fred Helmuth. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported \$10,915.55 in the chapter's accounts. Report was approved unanimously.

The following nominations were made for chapter officers:

Walt Crossmon nominated Andy Megrath for president. Seconded by Jack Crowther.

Jack Crowther nominated Walt Crossman as treasurer. Seconded by Andy Megrath.

Andy Megrath nominated Larry Young as vice president. Seconded by Bill Whitney.

Andy Megrath nominated Jack Crowther as secretary. Seconded by Larry Young.

Andy Megrath nominated Dick Doyle, Bill Whitney, Bub Crosby, John Bergeron and Fred Helmuth as directors.

Fred Helmuth moved to accept the full slate of nominated officers and board members. Seconded by Jack Crowther. Motion passed unanimously.

The election marks the departure from the presidency of John Bergeron, who had expressed a wish to step down after quite a number of years of leadership. Among his contributions was playing a key role in the establishment of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park in Rutland. John's efforts led to the recovery of the original marble carving of a soldier by the late John Reno. The carving, completed by Don Ramey, became the centerpiece of the memorial, which was dedicated on Memorial Day, 2000.

Chapter 1 welcomes new member Richard Baptie of Middletown Springs.

Jack Crowther reported on a recent contact with EJay Bishop, superintendent of the Rutland City Recreation and Parks Department. In speaking with Bishop about the lighting of the flag at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Jack discovered that overall plans for improvements for the park have been under way for a year or so and may provide the opportunity for improving the lighting as part of the larger project. The superintendent said he would be in touch with Jack so that Chapter 1 could provide input for planning the park's future.

Andy Megrath will speak to a computer expert about the possibility of e-mailing the chapter newsletter to members with e-mail addresses. Special software will be required to preserve the formatting of the newsletter when it is e-mailed.

Andy will also check with the VFW to see if the chapter's mail can be simply delivered to a chapter box at the VFW, thereby saving the cost of a post office mailbox.

Fred Helmuth and Jack Crowther have planned a "hoeing-out" session at the chapter club rooms to try to make them more presentable.

Andy will contact the national VVA newspaper, The Veteran, to see if it might rerun the article on the history of Chapter . The article first ran several years ago.

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Personal email addresses concealed

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, May 12 at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

VVA Chapter 1
PO Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702-6301

Address Correction Requested



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

MAY 2004



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

May 12, 2004

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Nine members attended, the best turnout in recent memory!

Newly elected President Andy Megrath presided.

Wrapping up his duties as treasurer, Andy Megrath reported \$10,657.32 in the chapter's three accounts.

Jack Crowther moved to approve \$300 as the chapter sponsorship for the golf tournament that helps support the Dodge House, the Rutland facility for homeless veterans. Second, Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Jack Crowther moved that the chapter approve \$60 for the annual Vermont Veterans Home picnic, which will be July 17 at the home in Bennington. Second Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Jack Crowther moved to accept the resignation of Walt Crossmon as treasurer. Second Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Jack Crowther nominated Dave Mathis to assume the position of treasurer. Second Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Andy Megrath presented a proposal from Ready Page Graphic Design to launch a Web page for Chapter 1. He described a suggested group of pages for the site that would include a posting of the chapter newsletters, the history of the chapter, planned events, lists of officers and board members, links to other sites and related information.

For a cost of \$400 the design firm would design and debug the Web site, and list it with various search engines and provide updates for 120 days. The site would be constructed so that after its launch, the chapter itself could update information. Software for that purpose would cost about \$100. Ready Page offered to host the site for \$7.95 per month plus an initial \$20 fee.

Andy Megrath has agreed to serve as the chapter Web master with the help of Dave Mathis.

Dick Doyle moved to allocate up to ^{\$700}~~\$600~~ to launch the site. Second Bill Whitney. Passed unanimously.

The VFW, where Chapter 1 has its rooms, has agreed to have the chapter receive its mail at its Wales Street location. The chapter will install a locked box. This will enable us to discontinue the expense of a post office box. (For the time being, the post office box shown as our return address will remain open.)

Dick Doyle reported membership stands at 121 members and 6 associate members, including 54 life members. Recent renewals include Wilbur Dubray, James Freese, Fred Hellmuth, David Mathis and Stephen Walbridge.

Dick Doyle moved that the chapter pay membership dues for Danielle and Shaun Tomasi, whose bar in Fair Haven supports the chapter with the sale of ripoff tickets, and Frances Silva. Seconded by Dave Mathis. Passed unanimously.

Interest in Internet contact among members continues to grow with regular additions to the list of those who want other

members to have their e-mail addresses. Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

The next State Council meeting will be June 19 at the American Legion in White River Junction at 10 a.m. John Miner, the former president, plans to challenge Buster Holmberg, the current president, for the position. Bill Whitney, Fred Hellmuth and Larry Young are willing to serve as Chapter 1 representatives to the State Council.

Andy Megrath cited the work of Fred Hellmuth and Jack Crowther in cleaning up and organizing the Chapter rooms. Appearance is much improved.

Dick Doyle cited outgoing president John Bergeron for nine to 10 years of leadership of Chapter 1. Those attending gave him a standing ovation for his service to the chapter. John continues as a board member.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, June 9, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

VVA Chapter 1
PO Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702-6301

Address Correction Requested

5/04



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

JUNE 2004



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

June 9, 2004

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Pelted by a heavy rainstorm, the meeting drew just two members, so no business was conducted.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of \$10,645.14 in the chapter's bank accounts.

Dick Doyle reports regular membership at 121. We have six associate members.

The minutes of the May 12 meeting are corrected to reflect an appropriation of \$700 (instead of \$600) for launching the chapter's Web site.

Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, July 14, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

JULY 2004



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Special guests for the August meeting will be Ed Cutler, a Vietnam vet, and Ilse Vergi. They will be at the meeting to discuss Project Safe Vermont, a branch of Project Safe Neighborhood, which is a nationwide gun control program. According to Ed and Ilse, the projects seek to have Congress pass a bill, which will have a direct effect on Vietnam vets. If you are a gun owner, you may want to hear what they have to say.

As some of you know, next year is our 25th anniversary. At our September meeting, which will be Sept. 8, at 6 p.m. at the VFW here in Rutland upstairs in our chapter's home, I would like to discuss with the group what we would like to do for that event. It would be a shame to let this go by and not do anything. John Miner, State Council president, was at our July meeting. He made a few suggestions, one of which was a dinner. He also said he had talked to Tom Corey, national president, and had asked him to put us on his calendar for April 16, 2005. John also said he would help us if he was asked. I hope with the number of members in Rutland and the areas nearby, we could have a good attendance at this meeting, more than at our monthly meetings. Our meetings last about an hour.

I would like to let everyone know that I have sent out an e-mail note to everyone on our e-mail list, and only three did not reply. I would like to do this more often and to more people, just to keep in touch with everyone more than just in the monthly newsletter. You can choose to make your e-mail address available just for Chapter 1 communications from me or you can share it with the other members. Just let me or Dick Doyle know what you prefer. Also let us know if we misprint your e-mail address or it changes.

Thanks, and Welcome Home.

Andy Megrath

E-mail: vthogman@adelphia.net

Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below. If you only want Andy Megrath to have your e-mail address, e-mail him at the above address with the notation: "for Andy's messages only," or similar wording.

Personal email addresses concealed

Personal email addresses concealed

Note that our new mailing address is 15 Wales St., Rutland, 05701-4026, the location of our quarters at the VFW. This adds convenience for mail pickup and saves the expense of a post office box.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648.

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

AUGUST 2004



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING Aug. 11, 2004

Attendance was 10, including a visit from the Kym Hoerr, a full-time RV traveler who spends most of her time in Florida and was visiting her old Vermont turf; Dick Shum of Wallingford; and Jim Dorsey of Sudbury.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of \$13,610.35 in the chapter's three bank accounts.

Visitors Ed Cutler and Ilse Vergi, representing a group called Gun Owners of Vermont made a presentation on Project Safe Vermont. Ed described PSV as an effort by Vermont law enforcement agencies to enforce federal gun laws. In brief, he said PSV threatens a large number of Vermonters — he quoted a figure of 100,000 — with imprisonment for gun possession if the sweeping restrictions of this gun control measure are put into effect. Among those affected, Ed said, would be any Vietnam veterans who received psychological counseling upon returning from the war. Gun Owners of Vermont, as represented by Ed, feels federal law is in danger of being used against people who have not done anything wrong but may appear on a list of people who received counseling or have relatively minor infractions on their records. Gun Owners of Vermont is looking for political help in opposing this program and is seeking the endorsement of Vietnam veterans for their efforts.

Fred Hellmuth and Jim Dorsey will do some checking on Project Safe Vermont as a prelude to possibly adopting a resolution on the matter. The consensus was that such a resolution should properly come before the VVA State Council. The State Council will meet Sept. 25. Chapter 1 will meet Sept. 8, in time to draft a resolution, if appropriate.

Jim Dorsey, in his capacity as a member of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council, passed out a report indicating the disposition of measures supported by the council during the last legislative session. Of 10 items on the list, six were listed as DONE, one was listed as DONE SOON, one was MOSTLY DONE, and one was 1/2 DONE. If anyone would like further information on these issues, you may contact Jack Crowther for a copy of Jim's report (29 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland 05701, 775-1182, or jackerowth@aol.com).

The chapter's Web site at www.vvachapter1.com or www.vvachapter1.org is up and running, though still being developed. If you have a computer connection to the Web, please check it out and let us know what you think of the site, which is still under construction.

Dick Doyle calls our attention by e-mail to an article in the Aug. 10 Rutland Herald about progress on the Sharon Information Center and Vermont Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the northbound lane of Interstate 89. Work on the project started in May and is expected to be complete by next July. The rest area's interior will include a list of all Vermonters who served in Vietnam and interactive exhibits about the Vietnam War. A greenhouse will feature plants from the Vietnam region. The full article can be viewed online at <http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20040810/NEWS/408100370/1003/NEWS02>. If you don't have a computer, Jack Crowther can mail you a copy. He's at 29 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland 05701, 775-1182, or jackerowth@aol.com.

Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
July 14, 2004

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported \$12,275.23 in the chapter's three bank accounts.

VVA State Council President John Miner visited. He noted the picnic scheduled for July 17 at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington. He offered his help if Chapter 1 chooses to put on a 25th anniversary dinner in April. John has spoken to Sen. Jeffords about a resolution in Congress to honor Chapter 1 and to national VVA President Tom Corey about attending such a dinner.

John also reported on two legislative bills he is working on, a veteran's bonus bill and an exemption on state income tax for military retirees with more than 20 years served. John also explained the Vermont's Honor a Vet With Your Vote program. The secretary of state's office sponsors the program, which provides buttons to wear on election day. The buttons have a space for the name of a veteran to be honored. Anyone who would like a form to request a button may contact Jack Crowther for a copy (29 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland 05701-775-1182, or jackcrowth@aol.com). The deadline to request the button from the secretary of state is Oct. 15.

John Miner offered his phone number, 802-447-6554, for anyone who wished to contact him.

Jake Jacobsen, one of the founders of Chapter 1, will put something together for the Web site about the start of the chapter.

Under new business, John Miner requested help to bring the national chaplain to Vermont July 25 and Sept. 18. A motion was made, seconded and passed to contribute \$25 to this effort.

Andy Megrath reported he had painted and mounted the chapter's new mailbox downstairs at the VFW. Ron Senecal of Carmote Paint will receive a certificate of appreciation for donating the paint.

Chapter 1 needs another State Council representative to replace Fred Hellmuth, who was elected secretary of that body.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase a tape recorder for use at the meetings.

Prepared by Jack Crowther, Secretary,
From notes by Larry Young, Vice President

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m.

This will be an important meeting for discussing celebration of the chapter's 25th anniversary next April!

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Sept. 8, 2004



Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*

SEPTEMBER 2004

Attendance was nine, including David Potter, a new face, and John Miner, VVA State Council president.

Larry Young moved to approve the minutes of the the July and August meetings, as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Bill Whitney. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of \$13,530.55 in the chapter's bank accounts.

Jack Crowther moved that Steve Faye be named a delegate to the State Council, replacing Fred Hellmuth, who has been elected council secretary. Seconded by Bill Whitney. Passed unanimously.

President Andy Megrath passed out printouts of the chapter's new Web site (www.vvachapter1.com). The site had received 38 hits at last count.

Discussion turned to how the chapter might celebrate its 25th anniversary as the first VVA chapter in the nation. The anniversary date is April 13, 2005. David Potter suggested the event, if held, should be as inclusive as possible. Dick Doyle suggested via e-mail that the chapter might spend \$1,000 and provide an event for both current members and partners and past members at a cost of about \$5 per person.

John Miner said Sen. Jeffords will put through a resolution in the Congressional Record congratulating the chapter and that he is working with state legislators for a similar resolution at the state level.

Andy Megrath agreed to chair the event, and Jack Crowther, Dave Potter, Steve Faye, Larry Young, Bub Crosby, Bill Whitney and John Miner agreed to assist. Dick Doyle has also volunteered to help. The date of Saturday, April 16, 2005, will be the date of the event. Jack Crowther will prepare a letter soliciting quotes from various restaurants and banquet facilities on the cost of a buffet or sit-down dinner. A planning committee will meet as needed to prepare for the event.

John Miner spoke regarding the request of Gun Owners of Vermont for support in opposing Project Safe Vermont, a federal gun control program being implemented at the state level. John said the State Council bylaws prohibit the council from getting involved in legislative issues not directly related to veterans. One of the representations of GOV was that Vietnam veterans who received psychological counseling would have gun privileges taken away and face prosecution under the terms of Project Safe Vermont. John said, however, that the Veterans Administration had not released the names of counseled vets to law enforcement agencies, making the concern about counseled vets a moot point.

Unlike the State Council, the individual chapters have more freedom in the legislative arena, John noted. No action was taken on Project Safe Vermont.

Andy Megrath reported on efforts to clarify the chapter's tax-exempt status. The federal ID and exemption number are in hand, and Andy is working on the state exemption.

Gary and Cindy from Ready Page Graphic Design will be invited to the Oct. 13 meeting to discuss their work on the Web site.

John Miner noted the expected July completion date for the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Sharon rest area on Interstate 89. The memorial will include a list of names of Vermonters who served in Vietnam. A start on the list includes more than 7,000 names of vets who received the Vietnam Service Medal from the state. Those names can be found at vvavtsc.com/vtvietnamveterans.htm.

John Miner explained a letter from Albert Cummings, VVA Region 1 director, that was sent to many Chapter 1 members. The letter, written to Miner and confusing to many who received it, noted that Cummings had asked the Massachusetts Foundation for the Advancement of Vietnam Veterans to suspend sending the Bay State Veteran newspaper to those who had received it and that planning for the Region 1 conference that was going to be held in Vermont had ceased.

John Miner said that the Bay State Veteran, the publication of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Advancement of Vietnam Veterans, had been sending its publication to Vermont VVA members as a result of receiving the mailing list of

Vermont VVA members. John said the list was provided by the previous State Council president, and that should not have happened. As a result, that mailing is being canceled. VVA members who wish to continue receiving the publication can contact the Bay State Veteran directly. John also said that the planning for the Region One Conference in Vermont had been going on behind the scenes. Thus the canceling of the planning terminates a process that apparently had not yet involved state VVA chapters generally. The site and time of the conference was evidently to have been St. Albans in October.

After explaining a call he received, Jack Crowther moved that Chapter 1 provide \$150 of assistance to R.D., a life member of Chapter 1 facing financial hardship, subject to checking with references provided by R.D. Seconded by Dave Potter. Passed unanimously. Two of R.D.'s references subsequently called Jack and vouched for R.D.'s integrity.

John Miner noted that the Region 1 director for the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of American, Susan Chechoski, will be on hand at the State Council meeting Sept. 25 at the American Legion in White River Junction. The Associates are a VVA affiliate for interested supporters who don't meet the service requirements of regular VVA membership.

Jack Crowther moved to provide \$100 to support the scheduled "stand-down" for homeless vets Oct. 9 at the American Legion in White River Junction. The event, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont seeks to assist veterans facing problems of homelessness; unemployment; and medical, legal and personal problems. Second, Steve Faye. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below. Bold type indicates new or changed listings.

Personal email addresses concealed

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m.

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

OCTOBER 2004



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING Oct. 13, 2004

Seven members attended.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Secretary Jack Crowther has volunteered to keep a list of deceased Chapter 1 members for a statewide listing that is being compiled. The names we have so far are Don Bodette (1997), Stanley Dulski (2003), Eugene Miner (2004), Donald Robichaud (2003), and Dennis Ross (2000). Since there has been no list until now, we are relying on members recollections. To add a name to the list you can contact Jack at (802) 775-1182 or jackcrowth@aol.com or drop a note to the chapter at the address shown on the other side.

President Andy Megrath reported on planning for the 25th anniversary dinner scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2005. Two of 10 have responded to the chapter's solicitation letter to local banquet facilities. The Palms and Franklin Center outlined costs for putting on the event. Three of the places approached are not available on that date. Andy has also approached a couple of DJs to provide music. Andy will call the places that have not responded to see if there is further interest. He'll then call a meeting of our banquet committee to move the planning process along.

Gary and Cindy Besaw of Ready Page Graphic Design were on hand to discuss work on the chapter's Web site, www.vvachapter1.com and www.vvachapter1.org, which is nearing completion. A photo gallery and information on POW/MIA activities are planned as future additions. It was agreed we need to provide information on the site about how to get listed on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honor Roll.

R.D. sent the chapter a letter of thanks for the \$150 of assistance the chapter provided in the face of a financial emergency.

The Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County has requested a renewal of assistance from the chapter; it will be taken up at a future meeting.

Ed Jones has been appointed chaplain for the State Council and is looking for local chapter chaplains.

Membership chair Dick Doyle reported 120 members and six associate members.

Mark Truhan, a current and charter member of Chapter 1 and a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, has been mobilized and will be sent to Iraq to train Iraqi officers. He is currently at Camp Atterbury in Indiana. Dick Doyle will try to get an e-mail address for people who wish to contact him.

Discussion occurred about holding a candlelight vigil at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on

Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

Next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m. and the chapter office at the VFW in Rutland.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

10/04



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

NOVEMBER 2004



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING Nov. 10, 2004

Four members attended.

Vice President Larry Young presided.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported \$13,495.39 in the chapter's three accounts. The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted. We will consider how to eliminate a \$25 service charge on one of the chapter's two checking accounts, perhaps by closing the account.

The first meeting for the 25th Anniversary Planning Committee was set for Nov. 18 at the chapter rooms to begin setting up the April 16, 2005, event.

Bub Crosby volunteered to serve as chaplain for Chapter 1. Jack Crowther moved that he be appointed. Seconded by Dave Mathis. Approved unanimously.

The Moving Wall, a replica of the nation's Vietnam memorial in Washington, D.C., is coming to Bennington July 26-31 under the sponsorship of VVA Chapter 601 of Bennington.

Next meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. at the chapter office at the VFW in Rutland.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

REPORT OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PLANNING COMMITTEE Nov. 18, 2004

The Planning Committee held its first meeting to prepare for the April 16, 2005, event to mark the 25th anniversary of Chapter 1 as the first chapter in the nation of Vietnam Veterans of America. Present were Dick Doyle, Bub Crosby, Jack Crowther and Andy Megrath.

As the planning proceeds, the committee invites suggestions and comments from members, as well as offers to volunteer with the work of putting on the event. Help will be needed in a number of areas.

The group made the following preliminary decisions:

Gov. James Douglas, Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, and National VVA President Thomas Corey will be special invited guests. There may be others. An effort will be made to invite charter members of Chapter 1, even if they are no longer active.

After reviewing prices and offerings from four banquet-hosting establishments — from a list of 10 that were asked to make proposals — the group selected The Palms restaurant as the site of the event, due in considerable measure to the enthusiasm of owner John Sabataso, himself a veteran, who was anxious to be part of the event and offered to donate certain services. The planning group selected a buffet meal with various hot and cold items featuring turkey and roast beef and including appetizers, and dessert. We preliminarily set the following price structure for the \$20-per-person buffet that we selected. There will be a cash bar. The chapter will subsidize the discounted dinner tickets:

Chapter 1 members and spouses, \$10 per ticket; special guests, free; charter members of the chapter, free; other veterans and their spouses, \$15 per person; other interested members of the public, \$20.

The Palms banquet room is handicapped accessible. Parking at the restaurant is limited, but it is close to the downtown shopping plaza.

We plan to set up a display of photos and materials representing the chapter and its history. Dick Doyle volunteered to collect service pictures of Chapter 1 members and prepare a display. You can send photos to Dick Doyle, 35 Old Terrace St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or e-mail him your photo at rpdoyle39@hotmail.com.

Steve Dumas was selected as DJ. We hope to emphasize music from the Vietnam era, have dancing and utilize the DJ as an emcee during portions of the evening.

To help defray expenses, we will have some sort of raffle and/or 50/50 drawings and probably produce a product, such as a shirt, to commemorate the event.

A printed invitation including a form for reserving a seat and sending in payment will be sent out in January.

As mentioned, we welcome feedback and suggestions as planning proceeds. **ALSO: to help us plan, please let us know if you and your spouse or guest are likely to attend.** (This is not a formal commitment, only an indication.)

Write to President Andy Megrath via e-mail (vthogman@adelphia.net) or our Web site (www.vvachapter1.com). You may also call Andy at 802-775-1745; or write to our mailing address, VVA Chapter 1, 15 Wales St., Rutland, VT 05701-4026.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will take place following the next regular chapter meeting on Dec. 8. Topics will include further discussion of speakers and special guests, details of the event at The Palms, and creation of a product to sell both at the event and to those who cannot attend but wish to acquire a memento.

Submitted by Jack Crowther
Secretary of Chapter 1

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com
DECEMBER 2004



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING Dec. 8, 2004

Seven members attended.

Shirley Teer of Clarendon Springs appeared with her daughter, Robyn Green, to submit the military service record of her late brother, John R. Coburn of Middletown Springs, so that he might be added to the Honor Roll of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland. The DD 214 established his Vietnam service, and his name will be added next spring. John Coburn drowned in Long Beach, Calif., shortly after his discharge in May 1966 and never returned home.

Minutes of the Nov. 10 meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of \$14,467.70 in the chapter bank accounts. The report was approved. We will pursue closure of the Chittenden checking account to avoid a \$25 service charge for lack of use. After some discussion, it was decided to limit the treasurer's report to the total balance and omit the transaction summary.

Life member Mike Divoll, a new face at the meeting, introduced himself and sketched his military service. He is the owner of Michael's Toys on Merchants Row in Rutland.

Membership chairman Dick Doyle reported by e-mail 123 members. He has yet to receive any photos of members at the time they were in Vietnam, the photos to be used in a display at the 25th Anniversary Banquet in April. Please send your photos to Dick Doyle, 35 Old Terrace St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or e-mail him your photo at rpdoyle39@hotmail.com. Dick says he can secure one of the granite chips from the manufacture of the Wall through VVA State Council President John Miner. This can be used as a raffle item at the anniversary. We approved Dick's suggestion to request a donation from the VVA national group's on-line store.

Under old business, President Andy Megrath reported that Robert Thomas of Rutland has asked about getting the name of his brother, Raymond Thomas, on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Andy is responding with information on requirements for inclusion.

Through John Miner of Bennington, the VVA State Council president, Andy relayed a request of David Rindy of Rutland, brother of the late Gregory Rindy, who was killed in Vietnam in 1968, for assistance in getting to Washington, D.C., to see the name of his brother on the Wall. Evidently David is looking for a ride down and possibly some financial help. Due to a partial disability, he may need some assistance getting around in Washington. Anyone interested in helping David can contact him at 802-747-7237.

Andy reported that VVA national president Tom Corey has responded that he is planning to attend the 25th Anniversary Banquet. Andy has also written Gov. James Douglas, Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, Sen. James Jeffords and Mayor John Cassarino to invite them. If Sen. Jeffords is unable to attend, his representative will be welcome.

With approval of those present, Andy Megrath will approach Adrian Kronauer, featured in the Robin Williams movie "Good Morning Vietnam," and see if he might attend the anniversary banquet. Kronauer is a government employee.

Dennis Devereux of Mount Holly has graciously donated two volumes listing Vermonters who served in Vietnam and Vermont National Guard members who have served in the nation's wars starting from World War I and continuing through Vietnam. These are valuable records for the chapter's library.

The chapter welcomes new member Maurice Burden of Tinnmouth.

We discussed a request of the Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County for a renewal of our \$2,500 sponsorship of past years. Given the reduced level of the chapter's income, Steve Faye moved the chapter donate \$500 to the club. Seconded by Jack Crowther. Passed unanimously.

Larry Young attended and reported on the Veterans Day candlelight vigil at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

It was noted that Alderman's Chevrolet is providing free oil changes for spouses of service men and women deployed under the Iraq war callup.

The chapter will contact the Vermont National Guard to see what help we might provide for families of servicemen and women deployed in the Iraq war callup.

Next meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. at the chapter office at the VFW in Rutland.

REPORT OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dec. 8, 2004

Andy Megrath, Larry Young, Steve Faye, Fred Hellmuth and Jack Crowther met to continue planning for the April 16 VVA Chapter 1 25th Anniversary Banquet.

Fred has agreed to head up the "product sales" segment.

Andy Megrath reviewed planning and action so far, including the selection of Steve Dumas as DJ, a deposit with The Palms to secure the date for the banquet. Initial plans call for a cocktail hour from 6 to 7 p.m. and the meal at 7 p.m. With the help of Jake Jacobsen and Clark Howland, Andy has compiled a list of 26 charter members of Chapter 1 and continues to pursue this matter.

After a review of prices for various shirts and hats, the group selected the following as commemorative items to be sold at and in advance of the banquet:

GREEN KNIT SHIRT — Stain resistant Hanes shirt with embroidered Chapter 1 logo with "25th Anniversary" above the logo and "April 13, 1980 - 2005" below. See form below for pre-ordering.

GREEN BASEBALL HAT — Adjustable cap has the following embroidery: Vietnam Veterans — Of America — Chapter 1 — 1980 2005 — 25th Anniversary.

It has been decided to update the Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland and have the new plaque ready at the anniversary banquet. Jack Crowther will prepare a press release and letter to the editor to publicize the opportunity for others who are eligible for inclusion on the Honor Roll to submit their names.

To retain control over attendance (space is limited to 185-190) at the banquet, members and one guest each will have exclusive rights to reserve tickets until the end of January. After that, attendance will be opened up to other veterans and interested members of the public.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will take place following the next regular chapter meeting on Jan. 12.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

Clip and Mail

RESERVATION FORM FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET — SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005

HAT AND SHIRT ORDER FORM

THIS FORM IS FOR CHAPTER 1 MEMBERS ONLY UNTIL FEB. 1

NAME _____ **SELF** ___ @ \$10 **ONE GUEST** ___ @ \$10 **TOTAL: \$** _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **E-MAIL** _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRT _____ **SHIRTS @ \$20 per shirt. Please specify sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL)**
Your shirt will be available AT THE BANQUET. Please add \$5 per shirt to have your order shipped to you.

COMMEMORATIVE BASEBALL HAT _____ **HATS @ \$8 per hat. One size fits all. Your hat will be**
available AT THE BANQUET. Please add \$4 per hat to have your order shipped to you.

PLEASE MAIL ORDER TO: VVA Chapter 1, Attn. Anniversary Banquet, 15 Wales St., Rutland, Vt. 05701

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12/04